

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)


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Applicant's or agent's file reference P13940PCDK	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DK 03/00259	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.04.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.04.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A22C21/04		
Applicant LINCO FOOD SYSTEMS A/s et al.		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  
  
 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  27.10.2003	Date of completion of this report  30.08.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Kock, S  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2173



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/DK 03/00259**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-6 as published

**Claims, Numbers**

1-8 as published

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/1 as published

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	2-8
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-8
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/DK 03/00259

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

- 1) The closest prior art is constituted by D1 = US-A-3 074 103. From D1 a method of scalding slaughtered poultry is known wherein the scalding chamber (cf. Fig. 1, vertical path of conveyor along steam pipes and nozzles 36, 37) has a "relatively large height" (cf. Point 5 below) and extends through two or more levels/storeys (the path extends through three levels of the picking chamber). Consequently, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not novel (Article 33.2 PCT).
- 2) The apparatus of present independent claim 4 is considered to be rendered obvious by the disclosure of D1 and the general knowledge of the person skilled in the art. The characterising features of claim 4 pertaining to the "large height" and the conveyor extending through three levels/storeys (of the picking chamber) are known from D1 and the features of the pre-characterising part are considered general knowledge of the person skilled in the art (Article 33.3 PCT).
- 3) A positive statement with regard to novelty and inventive step of the subject-matter of dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-8 cannot be given inasmuch as these claims depend on not-novel and not-inventive independent claims (Article 33 PCT).
- 4) The subject-matter of the present international application is considered industrially applicable (Article 33.4 PCT).

**Further Comment:**

- 5) The use of the term "large height" renders the claims ambiguous and thus unclear, contrary to Article 6 PCT.